

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-36. Canceled

37. (Currently amended) A combination in dry form, comprising microfibrils with a mean diameter of ~~less than 0.8 μ m~~ between 0.5 nm and 10 nm and a form factor which is defined as the ratio between the mean length of the microfibrils and its mean diameter such that their mean length always remains less than 30 μ m, and at least one mineral particle.

38. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 37, wherein the microfibrils have a mean diameter of less than 0.5 μ m.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 36, wherein the microfibrils have a ratio: mean length of the microfibrils L/ mean diameter of the microfibrils D, greater than or equal to 15.

41. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 36, wherein the microfibrils have a ratio: mean length of the microfibrils L/ mean diameter of the microfibrils D, greater than or equal to 100.

42. Canceled

43. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 37, wherein the microfibrils are surface-treated such that they bear a polypyrrole coat.

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AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

43. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 37, wherein the microfibrils are surface-treated such that they bear a polypyrrole coat.

44-46. Canceled

47. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 37, wherein the microfibrils are organic microfibrils.

48. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 47, wherein the microfibrils are polyvinyl alcohol, polyamide or cellulose microfibrils.

49. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 47, wherein the microfibrils are cellulose microfibrils.

50. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 49, wherein the cellulose microfibrils are of plant, bacterial or animal origin.

51. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 49, wherein the microfibrils have a degree of crystallinity of less than or equal to 50%.

52. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 49, wherein the microfibrils essentially consist of 80% primary walls.

53. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 49, wherein the microfibrils are surface-charged with carboxylic acids or acidic polysaccharides.

54. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 49, wherein the microfibrils are combined with carboxylated cellulose, natural polysaccharides or polyols.

55. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 54, wherein the cellulose microfibrils are further combined with oside monomers; osides oligomers; compounds of formula $(R^1R^2N)COA$, wherein R^1 or R^2 , which are identical or different, represent hydrogen or a C_1 - C_{10} alkyl radical, A represents hydrogen, a C_1 - C_{10} alkyl radical or the group $R'^1R'^2N$ with R'^1 and R'^2 , which are identical or different, representing hydrogen or a C_1 - C_{10} alkyl radical; cationic surfactants; or amphoteric surfactants.

56. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 37, wherein the mineral particles are oxides, hydroxides, or hydroxycarbonates of elements from columns IIA, IIB, IIIB, IVA, IVB and VB of the Periodic Table of the Elements.

57. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 56, wherein the mineral particles are

titanium oxides, aluminium oxides, silicon oxides, zinc oxides, calcium oxides, magnesium oxides, titanium hydroxides, aluminium hydroxides, silicon hydroxides, zinc hydroxides, calcium hydroxides, magnesium hydroxides, titanium hydroxycarbonates, aluminium hydroxycarbonates, silicon hydroxycarbonates, zinc hydroxycarbonates, calcium hydroxycarbonates, or magnesium hydroxycarbonates.

58-62. Canceled

63. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 37, wherein the mineral particles have a specific surface between $50 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and $400 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

64. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 37, wherein the amount of microfibrils is between 0.1 g and 100 g, relative to 100 g of mineral particles.

65. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 64, wherein the amount of microfibrils is between 1 g and 10 g, relative to 100 g of mineral particles.

66. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 37, which is in dry form comprising microfibrils with a mean diameter of less than $0.8 \mu\text{m}$, and at least one mineral particle, obtained by preparing a suspension comprising the microfibrils and the mineral particles, which is dried.

67-74. Canceled